

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE



ADDRESS REPLY TO
THE FORESTER
AND REFER TO

WASHINGTON

EM (G)
Maps, D-3, Lincoln,
Geographic Names
(Cerro Blanco)

January 23, 1928.

Secretary,

United States Geographic Board.

Dear Sir:

Referring to previous correspondence in this matter, especially to my letter to you under date of December 10, 1927:

The matter was taken up with the District Forester at Albuquerque, who under date of January 6 advises the Forester as follows:

"A few days ago, Mr. Long called on Miss Katie Chaves for the purpose of getting her ideas on the usage of the words 'Cerro Blanco' and 'Sierra Blanca.' Miss Chaves has just recently taken a course at Northwestern University and specialized in philology, and she is probably one of the best posted persons on both old and modern Spanish and the phrases commonly used in the Southwest. Miss Chaves maintains that the name 'Cerro Blanco' is used universally in the Southwest to designate an isolated peak or peaks, or the highest peak in a chain of mountains, or a peak in a single mountain range. She says that the name may mean a hill or a peak but it never is used in connection with a mountain range.

"The name 'Sierra Blanca' means White Mountain and the word 'Sierra' always refers to a mountain range or a chain of mountains. It is never used to designate a peak, either isolated or the highest point in a chain of mountains.

"In order to verify her statements in connection with common usage of the words 'Cerro Blanco' and 'Sierra Blanca', Miss Chaves brought it up for discussion

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at a dinner a few days ago, attended by a group of the best educated Spanish speaking people in the Southwest. At this party there were Frank Hubbell and former Governor O. A. Larazola, who is an eminent lawyer of this country and a Spanish scholar. All of the gentlemen present at this dinner unan-
imously agreed that Miss Chaves was correct in her interpretation of the words in question.

"In view of the foregoing, it would seem that the name 'Cerro Blanco' as applied to the highest Peak in the 'Sierra Blanca' range of mountains is correct and the U. S. Geographic Board should officially adopt this name."

In view of the overwhelming evidence against my understanding of the use of the name Cerro, it looks as though I will have to change my point of view and accept the suggestion for the name Cerro Blanco rather than Sierra Blanca.

The files of the Geographic Board in this case are returned herewith.

Very sincerely yours,



WILL C. BARNES
Assistant Forester.

Enclosures.

Sierra Blanca Pk.

G. L. O. Map 1912

G. S. Gila Natl. Forest 1914 (Surv. 1909)

△ Sierra Blanca (not S. B. Pk.)

Established 1909 by U. S. G. S.

Lincoln Natl. Forest Mps, U. S. G. S., 1921, 1925

Sierra Blanca Peak so described
on triangulation card & so called
both by the G. S. & S. S. & C. S.

Otero Co., N. M.

Lincoln National Forest
Mesquero Apache Ind. Res., 1914

Cerro Blanco

G. S. map of New Mex. 1925